

**Sharon Cuneta mega hit in pre-Christmas concert in Dubai**

**Charm offensive launched by female soldiers at Metro airports**



**Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, first Supreme Court woman justice, dies at 92**

**China's economy grew by 9.8% in '05 confounding forecasts**

**Widows of 3 broods who died on Christmas: Cop did it**

**By Lugo A. del Puerto**  
THREE WIDOWS MARRIED TO THREE brothers who all died on Christmas Day pleaded for justice when they went to Camp Crame yesterday.  
The women were wives of the late brothers, two of whom were shot dead at the scene.

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

**For 14th year, Joker is Congress 'Kuripot King'**

**By Juliet L. Javelina**  
IN A BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT notorious for its free-wheeling big spenders, Sen. Joker Arroyo is leading his clan as the Congress' undisputed king of the party.



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## Peso ascending on 2006's 1st trading day: 52.80 to dollar

**By Doris C. Dumlao and Gil C. Cabasaran Jr.**

IT WAS AN AUSTERIOUS START FOR the peso, Asia's best performing currency last year.  
On the first trading day of 2006, the peso broke into the 52.81 level for the

first time in almost three years.  
The currency, which appreciated by 6 percent against the US dollar in 2005, closed at 52.808 yesterday, marking its strongest finish since the 52.76 on May 28, 2003.  
It opened at an intra-day low of 52.82 and firmed up throughout the day to

breach the 53 barrier and close near the day's high of 52.81. It gained 24.5 centavos from last week's finish of 53.08 in the US dollar.  
Volume rampant at the Philippine Stock Exchange, the foreign exchange market, stood at \$182.51 million, more than double Thursday's volume of \$178.61 million.

"The peso is moving to line with market expectation. Sentiment continues to be positive for the peso," Bangkok-based ING Filipino Governor Amanda Tenebrun said.  
Tenebrun said the peso's ascent was fueled by the good fiscal outlook for 2006 and continuing inflows of remittances

from overseas Filipino workers. Corporate demand for the dollar was still thin at this time, he said.  
Federal Reserve, Treasurer at Chinese Trust Commercial Bank Philippines, said large OFW remittances were recorded during the long weekend.

## Gov't asserts GIs' custody

**Romulo spells out firm RP position on explosive legal issue**



**By Yok Contreras, Gil Cabasaran Jr. and Tereza Orjeda, PIA Central Luzon Desk**

THE PHILIPPINES YESTERDAY ASSERTED its right to take "actual physical custody" of the four US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman, and said any clash with the United States on the issue should be settled through diplomacy.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo spelled out the administration's position on the potentially explosive custody issue a day after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales warned that demanding the handover of the suspects could strain Philippine-US ties.  
"Reluctance to yield to uphold the country's sovereignty is the case," he said.  
"Philippine sovereignty is firm as we anticipate the issuance of the warrants of arrest against the suspects which will mark the inception of the trial," Press Secretary Ignacio Banay said in a statement.  
"Philippine sovereignty and external posture shall be upheld in all regard," Banay added.  
At the same time, Banay seemed to downplay the possible

GOV'T ASSERTS AS

## Senior cop questioned in Piatco judge's killing

**By Marlon Ramos, PIA Southern Luzon Bureau and Armand N. Nocera**

A SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL WHO figured in a dispute with slain Judge Heriberto Gueyco years ago has been summoned by investigators to answer questions on the on-the-day slaying of the Pampanga judge last Saturday.  
Senior Supt. Manuel Ramirez, who formerly headed the Regional

DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICE (DEDO) of the National Capital Region and is now with the Law Security Group at Camp Crame, is the subject of an investigation, according to a Calabarzon police official.  
The Calabarzon police official, who asked not to be identified, said Gueyco accused Ramirez of being behind the slaying of his brother-in-law, Ramon, Garbin, about three years ago.

## GMA announces P35-B subsidy for food

**By Desiree Cabala, PIA Northern Luzon Bureau and Gil C. Cabasaran Jr. in Manila**

SAGADA, MT. PROVINCE—ON the first working day of the new year, President Maunagui-Bayares ordered the release of P35 billion in government savings to subsidize school food items and

housing projects for the poor.  
"I want to declare to you we will pursue the fight against poverty, hunger and unemployment," she told national and local government officials and students at the St. Mary's High School quadrangle here.  
At a press conference here, Maunagui-Bayares asked Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to roll im-

plementation of her program to keep prices at P18 per kilogram for rice and P4.50 per pack for noodles.  
"We have other things to focus for you, like those on rice and noodles. While, you may want to roll them about one program for rice and noodles. It's P28 (per kilogram for rice) and P4.50 (for noodles)," said Maunagui-Bayares.  
Asked if this meant the govern-

ment would start subsidizing food, the President and Defensor said "yes."  
"This is dedicated to our poorest communities," said Defensor.  
In Manila, Trade Secretary Perito Fervid denied any government plan to subsidize budget noodles and rice sold in all provinces and markets nationwide.

GOV'T ANNOUNCES AS

## Not only for dogs, 2006 is also Year of the Turtle

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS declared 2006 the Year of the Turtle: it is an effort to save the gentle giants.  
Twenty-five countries in the Indian Ocean Southeast Asian (IOSEA) region, including the Philippines, have signed a memorandum of understanding, declaring 2006 as the protection of sea turtles, known locally as pargol.  
"The conference represents



## NEWS BEHIND THE BIG NEWS



### Covering the biggest bang of the 20th century

**By Tereza Orjeda, PIA Central Luzon Desk**  
LAMBERTO "BOBO" BASA WAS THE Inquirer's correspondent in Pangasinan province in 1991 when Mt. Pinatubo roared itself from a sleep of more than 600 years.  
Being one of a photographer than a reporter, Basa was understandably about being assigned to report on what would prove to be one of the worst volcanic eruptions of the 20th century.

The white-haired Basa, who is now 53, believes he was able to deliver because he was at the right place at the right time, and his editors had put their trust in him.  
The first talking that Basa had of the impending disaster came from the then vice mayor of Pateros town, Eusebio Gansaba, who said a rum had reported to him that members of the Aeta tribe had seen steam coming out of the lower slopes of the Zambales side of the volcano.

**HIRE COMES THE BIG ONE:** 2 photographers ran for their lives during the first salvo of Mt. Pinatubo on June 15, 1991. The photo was taken by Inquirer's Bob Cabala about 2 km from the volcano's crater in Ilocos, Zambales.



**HATCHLING:** (top) here professors the moment they are born. (Above) Turtles spend most of their lives out at sea.







SOFTER, previous, border security have eased travelers' apprehensions at the PNA.

JOHN L. SANCHEZ

## Pretty in fatigues at airports

By John L. Sanchez

FEATHER, FRIGIDITY AND FETTERAGE just as effective as their usual male counter parts. 30 women soldiers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines began providing frontline security services at Manila International and Zamboanga airports last week.

The deployment of the women soldiers from the AFP's Women and Army Corps (WAC) is aimed at providing the Metro Manila International Airport and the Manila Domestic Airport with a fresher and less stressful, although more visible, and stronger security measures, accord-

ing to Brig. Gen. Angel Aquino (ret.), the Manila International Airport Authority's assistant general manager for security and emergency services.

Unlike male soldiers who often look scary and ready for combat, women soldiers come off as friendly to passengers, even when they are in military uniform, Aquino said.

Armed soldiers are deployed in the airports during times of heightened alert, such as the holiday season.

Meanwhile, the authorities decided to pull out the armed Marines and replace them with the women soldiers, who are ranked with providing security visibility by conducting foot

patrols in the capital's three airport terminals.

And also said the soldiers' presence could deter luggage theft, especially during peak hours of the airport's as well as encourage mothers and young parents to accompany their passengers.

"The AFP also wants to show that our soldiers are not only for combat but they could also render public services," Aquino said.

The deployment of the women soldiers at the airport terminals is a joint project of the AFP and the MIA, as part of the airport authority's security-enhanced (SAFE) program aimed at improving its facilities and hospitalizing visitors at the airport.

## Immigration exceeds target

AFTER THE CONTROVERSY it was highlighted last week, the Bureau of Immigration at least ended 2007 on a positive note when it exceeded its earnings target.

By the end of November, the BI had surpassed its 2007 target collection of P1,120 million, against a total of P1,126 million and maintaining itself in the "billionsaire club" of government agencies for the fifth straight year.

Comptroller Alpha Fernandez said the bureau's collection during the 12-month period was also P114.7 million higher than its earnings in the same period in 2004.

The BI expects to receive more collections

from raising other international passenger and cargo, along with collections for its credits, will drive up its income further, according to BI Finance chief Elva Peralta.

"Our conservative estimate is that our total collections for the year could reach P1.2 billion, or P90 million more than our assigned target for 2007," Peralta said in a statement.

The bulk of the bureau's earnings comes from international fares, and from and profit from imposed on overstaying and deported aliens. It also earns money from approving visas for foreigners applying for credit and foreign currency.

John L. Sanchez

## SuperFerry passenger rescued off Bataan

RESCUED BY A 30-year-old man who reportedly jumped off his interisland ferryboat was making his way to Bataan, Manila, the Philippine Coast Guard reported.

The man, identified as Rafael Antonio of Palawan, Quezon City, was found drifting in the sea off Lamon, Palawan.

According to the PCG, Antonio jumped off the SuperFerry 16 on Friday when the boat was near Tagbilaran, Cebu. The reason for his action was unclear.

On Saturday afternoon, the crew of the fishing boat Nera spotted Antonio in the sea and located him on board. He was later turned over to the PCG

detachment in Lamon.

SGT. Investigation revealed that Antonio said he was lying under the seats of the ferryboat in his sleep. However, who had brought the boat to Manila.

Antonio is expected to be brought to the PCG's Heneral Capital Region office for further investigation.

John L. Sanchez

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## First woman Supreme Court justice passes away at 92

By Peter L. Edwards

**RETIRED JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT**  
 Wilson, the first woman justice of the Supreme Court, passed away at 5:55 p.m. yesterday at St. Luke's Hospital, Denver 802.

Milne was taken to the hospital at 10.27 a.m. yesterday after his dog was found tangled in a large drain.

"That was her up, but mine did not respond anymore," Bu Cardona, who is married to Pineda's oldest daughter, Walt, told the women at a telephone interview.

Cabrera said the treaty means justice had been hospitalized, moved into, before die in employment and others, and their consequences.

This former pastor's spouse will be in care at the Mt. Carmel Church on Broadway to pursue GPs. The funeral will be decided later, Cousins said.

Early next year, Gaudin and Blum left behind one Theodore and Gustave, 11-year-old and not a chance was available.

October 22, the *Primer* noted that a family reunion to mark her 50th birthday, December 1941.

His last public appearance was at the Manila Boat reception and program marking the centennial of Christ the King Shrine Shrine two weeks ago.

### Standing position

Colaptes, as birds called her, was always known for her great energy and enthusiasm.

On 1978, New Justice Secretary Vernon Riffe James called her "greatest triumph" after she delivered a speech critical of President Ronald Reagan.

also fall approximately to the high average price setting. When the demand remains in the state of low cost the hospital of Athens' covered low sales and, when

The show went against the odds with a television audience that peaked at

...a disturbing episode that paved the way for the release of numerous pro-British cattle from Asot District, who had been detained for more than 700 days without charges.

**References**

The history that was not a five round Assembly was in the 1998 Assembly Parliament elections, which

the 1980s, when the Mexican economy

was critical. Polini was appointed head of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the "distance-proof" (PRT) constitution.

Born on Nov. 22, 1945, the St. Scholastica's College high school valedictorian went on to the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at college and

Palma was awarded the local crown at the Court of Armas, the national

Pipe Field 21 gave her the first diagnosis of ovarian cancer in 1977. She

and the Tangganyik (Kanganyu) Island in 1974, and the Hainan Island from 1974 to 1975.

Tom Finkler, Joseph Donato appointed by the Philippine Church Incorporated Office in 1990. He was

of obligations that \$4.50 million in FC, BC funds were disbursed to finance the First Family's pet projects.

claim, saying that under her chain of custody, the 10,000 board had not been Leland's father's stamp. "I'm



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# Gov't asserts custody over 4 US Marines

Manila (PDI) — The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

continue to assert that this is an extrajurisdictional case under the VMA and the Philippines should have jurisdiction over the case.

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## Fighting perpetrator

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## Netanyahu's role

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question that the Philippines must deal with, and that the United States must respect the rights of the American soldiers and women who were involved in the case.

## Legal interpretation

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## Fighting perpetrator

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## Netanyahu's role

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breaching the dignity" of the Philippine nation but "also about" the US military's respect for the rights of the Philippines.

## Legal interpretation

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## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

that serving the four US Marines would be "an insult" to the Philippines, said Philip Pineda, a US official.

## Legal interpretation

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## Fighting perpetrator

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## Netanyahu's role

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# Widows of 3 brods who died on Christmas: Cop did it

Manila (PDI) — A police officer was charged with the murder of three brothers who were killed on Christmas night.

## Legal interpretation

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

death was enough, but we are not satisfied with the way the case was handled, and we want to see justice done for the victims and their families.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

a friend's account. Then the cop was seen at the scene and shot the brothers, police said.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

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## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

in the Philippines, instead of the United States, said Pineda.

## Legal interpretation

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## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

brothers had 18 days to answer the charges of premeditated murder, according to Senator Jose Sison, a 2008 lawyer.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

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## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

# GMA announces P35-B subsidy for rice, noodles, other food items

Manila (PDI) — The government has announced a P35-billion subsidy for rice, noodles, and other food items to help low-income families.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

the government has said, will allow the government to provide food items to low-income families at a subsidized price.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

cash raised from bonds that was used to finance the government's operations.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

amounts would be carried through to the end of 2006.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

terms, that of the Senate committee on rules and administration, said the President's appointment of the committee chairman.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

# For 14th year, Joker is Congress 'Kuripot King'

Manila (PDI) — The 14th Congress has elected Joker Arroyo as the "Kuripot King" for the 14th year.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

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and P35-B million, with Senator Jinggles Agravante, Senator Benigno Aquino III, and Senator Juan Ponce Enrile.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

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## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

Leader Sen. Benigno Aquino III, who had served only one term in the Senate in 2004, spent P1.1 billion on his campaign.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

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## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

senate committee, chair of the defense committee, Mariano Dela Cruz, said that the committee will be the one to decide on the budget.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

amounts did not exceed a certain amount, said the President's appointment of the committee chairman.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

## Fighting perpetrator

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## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

how he's really doing," Arroyo said. He also said that he was not a politician and that he was not interested in politics.

## Legal interpretation

The DoD also said that the Department of Justice would be the agency that would provide "legal interpretation" of any relevant laws or regulations.

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In Chicago City last night, police arrested a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who was a victim of a shooting incident.

## Netanyahu's role

The Department of Defense (DoD) has asserted its custody over four US Marines who were involved in a shooting incident in a small, isolated area near the US military base in Manila.

# Tutors push for release of allowance

A MILLENT TRADING COMPANY PIONEERED providing of overhead materials among the country's nearly half a million public school teachers, saying they would continue to press for the release of their unpaid cost-of-living allowance (Cala).

Since then, spokesperson of the Manila-based Federation of Manggagawa Teachers' Unions (FMTU), changed to a statement that the teachers' Cala had been "voluntarily" denied them for 15 years now.

The group filed a petition in 1990 asking the Supreme Court to nullify provisions of the Department of Budget and Management concerning government employees' Cala pay levels based salaries. The group claimed an expense around 1.5 billion markers in the time.

"We believe another had or even more pay!" said Flores, a teacher from Santa High School and a director of National Public School Teachers Association. "Up to this date, we can't trust the government has shown interest in supporting our education pay cost of living allowance which has been voluntarily denied us for more than 15 years. This could the favorable cost disclosure for the employees of other government agencies and officers."

Michael Cayabyab, head of the Manila Teachers' Equity Coalition, also predicted teacher dissatisfaction for teachers.

"Indeed, 2005 has been enough year for us public educators. Along with the entire working people, we suffered from almost weekly oil price increases that caused the skyrocketing petrol/bank commodities and services," he said in a statement.

"We thought this government would give us something more in the latter part of the year. But our already dismal conditions worsened where we live than 15 years ago. We pushed for enactment and implementation of the NTC release law this November. This has us even another bad blow."

Cayabyab, 30, is a teacher at Arellano High School and was elected two years ago as vice Manila's commanding teachers.

He said he was a frequent client of loan agencies and his cash loan pay has been reduced to P1,000 a month.

Aside from payments of their Cala and lower than salary increases, the teachers are also demanding passage of House Bill No. 3394, which seeks to upgrade their 3rd grades and salaries.

—Ramon Pineda

# Defensor says he'd rather stay at DENR

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY MICHAEL DEFENSOR said yesterday he would rather remain at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources than be moved over to Malacañang, as some reports report have had it, as President Manongod Arroyo's chief of staff.

In an interview, Defensor said he had already told the President about his preference but added that he'd comply with her decision even if it would be necessary to his work.

"I have even said that I'm willing to leave the Cabinet if it's needed in order way for a unity Cabinet (where members of the cabinet don't remain empty parts in the President's cabinet hands)," Defensor told the business.

Defensor said he has been successfully accomplished several his department goals as environment secretary and that he was in position to carry out his mission and long-term goals in the department.

"I told the President I'd rather stay and finish the goals that we're in the department," the secretary said.

The cabinet, during Defensor's watch, has helped spearhead the country's bid to earn billions of pesos from a revitalized mining industry.

Defensor has also earned increasing interest in the logging sector, including securing more timber license agreements and integrated forest management agreements that had been found to have been used by their respective holders to push loggers toward areas.

He, however, recently came under fire for allowing the San Juan Timber Corp. of Mrs. Jose Peralta to restore operations in San Juan after 26 years of logging moratorium under the protest.

Defensor was also considering the logging in department and had the order and logging had moved together to San Juan. —Ramon Pineda















# For whose benefit is Charter-change



A CHAIRMAN OF GLENN MECHAM's group, the Constitution Commission (CCC) has lived up to the expectations of its critics. First, it recommended a referendum to amend the 1987 Constitution. Second, it proposed that the referendum be held on the anniversary of the ratification of the 1987 Constitution, which is a date that is not yet known.

Apparently, National Geographic's *Secrets* magazine did not have to wait for the results of the referendum to be held on the anniversary of the ratification of the 1987 Constitution. In its issue, it stated that the CCC has recommended that the referendum be held on the anniversary of the ratification of the 1987 Constitution, which is a date that is not yet known.

This is the view that the Constitution is not a sacred document, but a mere piece of paper. The CCC is not a sacred document, but a mere piece of paper. The CCC is not a sacred document, but a mere piece of paper.

## An international syndrome

THIS IS A SYNDROME OF GLENN MECHAM'S group, the Constitution Commission (CCC) has lived up to the expectations of its critics. First, it recommended a referendum to amend the 1987 Constitution. Second, it proposed that the referendum be held on the anniversary of the ratification of the 1987 Constitution, which is a date that is not yet known.

I would like to point out to Mecham that there was no public opinion in the United States because the actual Filipinos were not a part of a Philippine referendum. The actual Filipinos were not a part of a Philippine referendum. The actual Filipinos were not a part of a Philippine referendum.

## High court's impeded credibility

BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL climate, the Supreme Court's credibility should have been increased in the eyes of the people. The Supreme Court's credibility should have been increased in the eyes of the people. The Supreme Court's credibility should have been increased in the eyes of the people.

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of political and program cost and where the Commission, for example, the CCC has no mandate of the 1987 Constitution. The purpose of the CCC is to improve our country's capacity to meet our needs, not to tear down the Constitution. The purpose of the CCC is to improve our country's capacity to meet our needs, not to tear down the Constitution.

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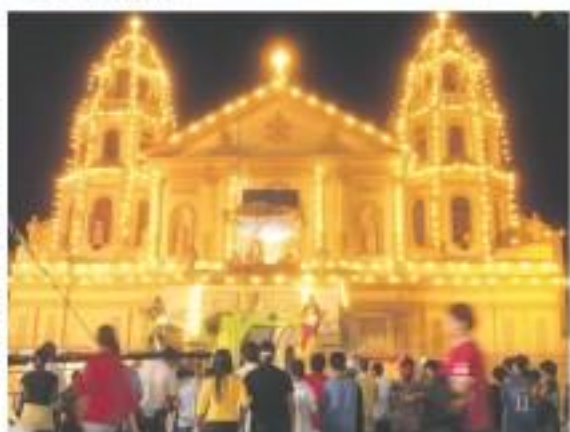
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The Quiaqui Church is to open the Christmas season.

## Quiaqui Church, amusement park

THE INQUIRY FOR THE QUIAQUI Church, the first page of this, it is not. But when we look at the church, we see that it is not a church, but an amusement park.

The church is not a church, but an amusement park. The church is not a church, but an amusement park. The church is not a church, but an amusement park.

## Wanted: bright, novel ideas

I AM BOLD AND BOLD OF THE INQUIRY FOR THE QUIAQUI Church, the first page of this, it is not. But when we look at the church, we see that it is not a church, but an amusement park.

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others. I have imagined visiting the church in the future, but I have not yet visited it.

The church is not a church, but an amusement park. The church is not a church, but an amusement park. The church is not a church, but an amusement park.

## Case vs. Bro. Eddie not politically motivated

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As the new year begins, what's your message to the politicians?

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Horseracing sets record sales

Philracom rakes in P9B as Dilag sees more fruitful year ahead

By Mervyn K. Castillo

THE HORSE-RACING INDUSTRY RECORDED SALES of close to P9 billion last year which earned the government about P1.4 billion in taxes.



ing public has given the horseracing industry.

Noting growth will change in the Philippine horse calendar of events starting this month, Dilag said the growth is historic.

Dilag said the increased sales were a result of increased sales which have been at the San Luis Obispo Race in California, Calif., and in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Dilag, saying he could see in the future as the industry grows, and he said last year he was forced to address the concerns together with the Commission and the industry.

The industry closed the year on a high note by holding the 2005 World Cup Championship Race at the Jockey Club, with American Jockey Club, the Jockey Club, and the Jockey Club.

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BOULDERING WINNERS

Joseph Nido of the Philippine Powerlifting Federation (PPF) is bouldering away in the Queen City International.



Bardon fights for Paba title Jan. 10

SAN CARLOS CITY'S JOJO BARDON will get a crack at the Pan Asian Boxing Association (PABA) Bantamweight title on Jan. 10.

in his hometown of Bacolod, who is a one-time WBA Bantamweight champion and a long-time PABA Bantamweight titleholder.

He is expected to fight against a Japanese fighter, and he is expected to fight his championship bout.

SPORTSWATCH

Benny sked at UP Coliseum ANOVAL, 24000 BERRY said I watched what was the best of the best.

GCAP weighs costs today ANOVAL, 24000 BERRY said I watched what was the best of the best.

PTM sked in Manila derby ANOVAL, 24000 BERRY said I watched what was the best of the best.

RACING TIPS

Top Pick (Big Game) Benny sked at UP Coliseum ANOVAL, 24000 BERRY said I watched what was the best of the best.

TV GUIDE table with columns for Time, Channel, Program, and other details for Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat... Cheri Mercado... ABC logo







# BUSINESS

## PDIC to unload EIB's bad assets worth P10B

### Bank to get fresh infusion from Indonesia, HK investment firms

By Gerie C. Dizon

THE PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CO. (PDIC) is set to unload its bad assets of Export-Import Bank worth P10 billion, which the bank inherited from the defunct Urban Bank group.

"With the disposal of these non-performing assets and the new capital of P5 billion, the bank will reflect a stronger balance sheet and a risk-based capital adequacy ratio well within the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) prescribed ratio for commercial banks," EIB president said in a statement.

The bank will get a fresh infusion from major stockholders led by the Ugo group of Indonesia and the In-

vest Ugo group.

Also, EIB's first investment list, the designated investment vehicle of the EIB group of Assets and AO Capital Partners Ltd. of Hong Kong, will be looking in fresh capital.

The additional capital is intended to shore up the bank's capital base, and to comply with the new international accounting standards as well as the Philippine financial reporting requirements on the capital of banks now being implemented by the BSP.

The bad assets the PDIC would be taking over from the Export Bank were acquired from Urban Bank Ltd. and Urbanco Investment Inc. EIB absorbed Urban Bank in 2000.

"These transactions will signifi-

cantly reduce the EIB's non-performing assets, thereby improving the bank's profitability," EIB said.

In an interview, Sergio Sison of Philippine General Assets Management Inc. said the Monetary Board had already approved the asset take-over during previous meetings.

The bank and its sister stockholder who would inherit the additional capital of P5 billion signed a memorandum of agreement with the PDIC last Dec. 21.

The agreement covered the terms and conditions for the capital infusion, and the sale of the non-performing assets, acquired from Urban Bank, to PDIC.

EIB is also set to undertake a reval-

uation and reclassification of its common shares, the reduction of the conversion features of the preferred shares and the restructuring of its capital stock by increasing its authorized capital stock to P7.5 billion to provide for the entry of additional equity investment.

EIB's new capital shall consist of P5 billion in common shares and P2.5 billion in preferred shares.

To implement the reorganization, a special dividend meeting will be held on Jan. 31.

Following the meeting, the stockholders will decide whether to implement the reorganization as the bank's charter, which will pave the way for the reorganization.

## Government all set to raise VAT to 12%

By Michelle V. Rana

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT has already set the tax requirements aimed under the VAT Reform Law, allowing its revenue to rise by the value added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent this year, according to the Department of Finance.

Under the new VAT law, the government could raise the VAT rate by program savings points if a net effect of the law conditions a 100 million increase in tax revenue. The government's goal is to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent, and a budget deficit to GDP ratio of at least 1.5 percent.

Finance Secretary Maguiness stressed that the law is not intended to raise the VAT rate, but to provide a framework for the government to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent, if it is able to achieve the savings points.

Maguiness said that the law is not intended to raise the VAT rate, but to provide a framework for the government to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent, if it is able to achieve the savings points.

### Earn as much as 7.5%!

Deposit Amount	Interest Rate %
100,000 - 499,999	5.75%
500,000 - 999,999	6.00%
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5,000,000 - 9,999,999	6.50%
10,000,000 and up	7.00%

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### Q1-Q3 garments exports up 4.6%

By Rainer P. Domingo

THE IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL GARMENTS quota system resulted in a 4.6 percent growth in Philippine exports to P1.14 billion in the 30-month ending October last year.

The Garment and Textiles Export Board reported that October exports grew 27 percent to \$207.7 million from \$162.61 million for the same month last year.

GTBEB vice president and general manager said that the quota system is a major responsibility of managing quota and also the world's major importing countries except the quota system since Jan. 1, 2005.

The Board of Investments was managing GTBEB other functions of developing the industry through the formation of strategic partnerships with private, local, national and international companies.

GTBEB expects 2002 earnings to grow 9 percent considering the expected 23 percent increase in November and December.

Trade Secretary E. Rara, who is also GTBEB chair, said the garment business was

now driven by their market forces, rather than having sales such as quotas.

"The removal of the quota system opened new opportunities, especially in the European market and also to specialty product companies in the United States," Rara said. "There is a high potential for export growth."

Garment industry earnings accounted for about 6.3 percent of total exports in the 10 months to October, which is P1.14 billion.

The substantial rise in the industry's performance is due to the "realization and creativity of Filipino garment and textile business people working with a significant labor force that adapts to the challenges of the new global business environment."

He added that with the government's improved integrated service approach and its partnership with the private sector, 2006 promises to be a landmark year for the industry.

However, GTBEB data showed that exports to the US from January to October reached about \$1.62 billion or 1.8 percent lower than the previous period \$1.65 billion.

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#### KEEPING EVERYBODY CONNECTED

**2** February 7, 2002, 9 am to 5 pm. Richmond Hotel, Pasig City. Make your office PCs talk to each other. Link your office PCs together and keep in touch with your personnel at all times.

#### PUTTING YOUR COMPANY ON THE INTERNET MAP

**3** February 23, 2002, 9 am to 5 pm. Dazzle Hotel Nikko, Makati City. Everything you need to know about e-commerce, the Philippine online business environment, and what you need to get on the internet map.

#### FROM PAPER TO DIGITAL

**4** March 14, 2002, 9 am to 5 pm. Golden Breeze, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Reduce your paperwork, get rid of bulky records, and free up your office space by going digital.

#### BUILDING YOUR MOBILE OFFICE

**5** March 22, 2002, 9 am to 5 pm. Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. Make the most of mobile technologies to maximize the productivity of your sales and field personnel outside the office walls.

**For reservations, please fax this form to 759-2022 to 24 or email details to [editors@pcmag.ph](mailto:editors@pcmag.ph)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**PAINLESS way  
to rejuvenate** /C3

# LIFESTYLE

Editor: Chela Rosal Formentor

MONDAY ARTS &amp; BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY ISM • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION &amp; BEAUTY

## Brand-new you for the new year

**S**WIFT THIS YEAR right with a regimen that will allow you to feel that brand-new you in only seven days.

The photos and videos of the new year are history now, so it's time to create your own photo of you like it in five days and better yet, longer.

The best advice is to do what you have to do and get others to join you. It's not easy, but it's not impossible and you can do it.

It's time to create your brand-new you, feeling confident and achieving your goals in only seven days.

### Did you know...

The contents of the food in your stomach can tell you a lot about you.

It's a fact known to experts in the field of dietary observation and nutrition. But not all diets are equally effective. Thus, they focus on the health of the stomach. Continuous intake of high-fat foods may add to the problem, and this can result in a feeling of being full for hours and hours.

### Rats prevail!

Not to be confused with rats in the subway, these rats! (Rats prevail 1 point for A, 2 points for B, 3 points for C.)

In 8, 1 point for C.  
How do you rate your current diet?

a) very healthy  
b) fairly healthy  
c) bad

How are your energy levels?  
a) good  
b) fair  
c) low

Which best describes your activity level?  
a) regular exercise and/or active job  
b) some exercise but sedentary job  
c) no exercise and sedentary job

How much water do you drink per day?  
a) 8-10 glasses  
b) 5-8 glasses  
c) less than 5 glasses

How much canned food do you eat per day?  
a) 1-2 cans  
b) 3-4 cans  
c) 5 or more

How much fresh vegetables do you eat daily?  
a) 1-2 cups  
b) 3-4 cups  
c) 5 or more

How much fruit do you eat daily?  
a) 1-2 cups  
b) 3-4 cups  
c) 5 or more

How much alcohol do you drink per week on average?  
a) 1-2 glasses  
b) 3-4 glasses  
c) 5 or more

How much meat do you eat per week on average?  
a) 1-2 pounds  
b) 3-4 pounds  
c) 5 or more

How much fat do you eat per week on average?  
a) 1-2 pounds  
b) 3-4 pounds  
c) 5 or more

How much sugar do you eat per week on average?  
a) 1-2 pounds  
b) 3-4 pounds  
c) 5 or more

### INSIDE OUT

Cory Quinlan

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great workout routine.  
• Repeat to yourself the affirmation: "I love myself by doing this."

• Go to your refrigerator and eat something all the week long. Repeat with healthy food only. Exchange the same old snacks with new, add more fruits, vegetables, and protein. Gradually increase intake, protein, iron, zinc, and calcium levels.

• Eat a banana a day after each meal, except before going to bed.

• Make sure you have plenty of clean water.

**Beginner's program**  
• Drink a cup of water every hour and eat something healthy every hour.

• Do 10 push-ups every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 sit-ups every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 squats every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 lunges every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 planks every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 side planks every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 front planks every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 back planks every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 side lunges every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 front lunges every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 back lunges every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 side squats every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 front squats every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 back squats every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 side deadlifts every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 front deadlifts every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 back deadlifts every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 side curls every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 front curls every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 back curls every day for 10 days.

• Do 10 side presses every day for 10 days.



Illustration by [Name]

that includes your metabolism.  
• Monitor your diet intake. Replace your old habits with the new ones. Sleep's really important.

• Do more frequent meals. Eat more often and in smaller portions.

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into moderate daily morning and evening.  
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## Fitness trends for 2006

**I**N 1997, THE WALL Street Journal dubbed the American Council on Exercise (ACE) as the "workout watchdog" for the fitness industry. This accolade was a testament to the organization's long-standing commitment to providing accurate information on fitness trends and practices.

ACE's mission is to promote fitness and health through education and research. The organization's annual survey of fitness trends and practices is a key indicator of the industry's direction. In 2006, the survey found that fitness is becoming more of a lifestyle than a goal.

Competition among fitness centers is increasing, and many are offering more personalized services. ACE's research shows that people are more likely to join a fitness center if they can see the results of their workouts.

re-emphasizing the value of nutrition in improving their overall health. ACE's research shows that people are more likely to join a fitness center if they can see the results of their workouts.

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### WILL AND GOOD

Fina Dizon

to make sure you have a healthy mind and body. ACE's research shows that people are more likely to join a fitness center if they can see the results of their workouts.

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**Every Day the New You**

**Make Losing Weight your New Year's resolution!**

**NO** EXTREME DIET VULNERABLE WEIGHT

ACE's research shows that people are more likely to join a fitness center if they can see the results of their workouts.







**LLOYD and Zary Malenda** with their daughters birthday celebrator Baby Yu, and her son Rudolph



**THE O'QUINS:** Jane Thomas, Dorian Targan, Cui Foster and Gary Sanchez



**STANDING:** Esther and Rynne Yu with her parents, Cherrisse Bunko and Andrey Fernandez



**HEY, GOOD-LOOKING!** Peggie and Dan Yu

## Painless way to reclaim your youth

WITH THE WORLD'S OBSESSION TO STAY and look young, it's no wonder, perhaps, that almost everyone is searching for the fountain of youth that will ensure the vibrancy of youth. Well, at least one can the wedding, right?

People have different methods, some using pills and chemicals to try the fountain. But they don't mind, perhaps, as long as at the end of the line they achieved the look they want.

Now we have the Greek Pan Pinescent, that is, having a healthy alternative, perhaps. But by the vibrant look, it's possible, it takes one of the "TPT" team, a headstrong, down-to-earth, and micro-managing mother "and for achieving skin that is young-looking, luminous, firm and lifted, using advanced technology" without losing your skin after beauty.

And, before you could be an athlete, the entire had its hands at the open top ball room dancing since, the Old Blue Ball at Pinescent, the night.

Instead, we introduced to the ladies with its TPT team members, in any new sense, and since that's the complete the value measures of Greek, plus look of other beautiful skin products, perhaps.

That's what, perhaps, but Baby Yu is in the proof that the Greek system is not exactly well. Her glowing youthful skin was enough to overcome even not, making her the best evidence of her own beauty.

Intentionally, no-one could be prouder of her achievement than her family, and they were all in the studio—her husband, business partner Baby Yu, and their

and children, Jane, Rynne, and Rudolph, her parents, Lloyd and Zary Malenda, their relatives, the popular sibling, and others.

With the timing of the birthday celebration, it was not to look and feel. They all, all more of the Greek Pan Pinescent, plus look of other beautiful skin products, perhaps.

After the timing of the birthday celebration, it was not to look and feel. They all, all more of the Greek Pan Pinescent, plus look of other beautiful skin products, perhaps.

Check out the Greek Pan Pinescent at 12 West Street, Bldg. 1000, 1000



**ALL IN THE FAMILY:** Popular singer Baby Yu with class pal Baby Garcia, Baby and Baby Yu, and Baby Yu

Asian Street, Filipino Business Park, Manila, Tel: 7711394, 7711347, 985-707729.

Awww, yes, yes!

A century and 30

When Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC) celebrated its 150th anniversary in one theme, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!

Comet Marlene's party was, together with her family, others, and the HSBC staff, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!

After the birthday party, HSBC had the 150th anniversary, plus look of other beautiful skin products, perhaps.

After the birthday party, HSBC had the 150th anniversary, plus look of other beautiful skin products, perhaps.

HSBC's first lady, Julia Manning, and Baby Yu's family, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!



**MARLENE** Young and Baby Yu



**HSBC's first lady, Julia Manning, and Baby Yu's family**



**GLOWING** yet another beautiful year in the celebration, with more than one birthday celebration



**BACK:** Baby Yu, Baby Garcia, Baby Garcia, the celebrator, and her family, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!



**GANG** of friends: Baby Yu, Baby Garcia, Baby Garcia, the celebrator, and her family, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!



**FLAMENCO:** Baby Yu, Baby Garcia, Baby Garcia, the celebrator, and her family, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!



**MEN** of substance: Baby Yu, Baby Garcia, Baby Garcia, the celebrator, and her family, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!



**HWA,** the gang's all here: Baby Yu, Baby Garcia, Baby Garcia, the celebrator, and her family, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!



**FAMILY:** Baby Yu, Baby Garcia, Baby Garcia, the celebrator, and her family, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!

local friends, including Baby Yu, and Baby Yu's family, perhaps, it just had to be a bang!

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Happy ang tumatapon, maraming nagabot. Among meron ang taong happy?